

REMARKS

Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 13, 15, 23, and 24 without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter. Claims 16-22 and 25-27 are pending and under current examination.

Regarding the Office Action:

In the Office Action, the Examiner did not acknowledge that claim 2 (dependent from claim 1) is pending; rejected claims 1, 13, 15, 23, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Edelstein, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,133,136) ("Edelstein"); and allowed claims 16-22 and 25-27. Applicants appreciate Examiner's indication of allowed claims.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

The rejection of claims 1, 13, 15, 23, and 24 is rendered moot, because Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 13, 15, 23, and 24, without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Conclusion:

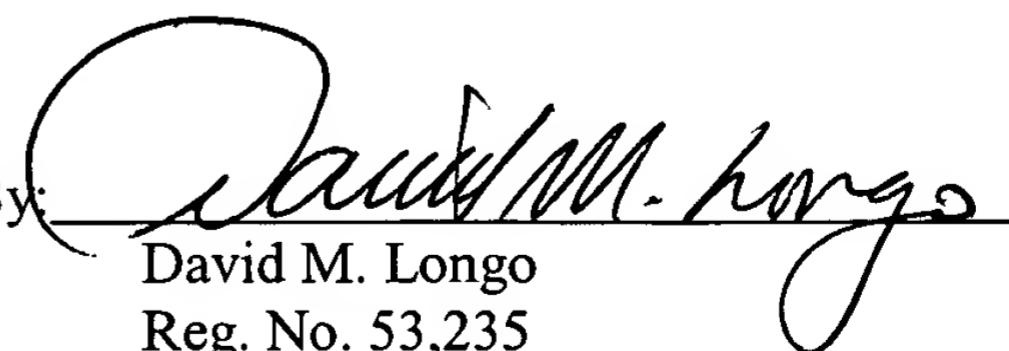
In view of the foregoing, Applicants request a Notice of Allowance, since pending claims 16-22 and 25-27 have been allowed by the Examiner.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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